



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Town of Arlington**

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2005**

**First Floor Conference Room**

**Senior Center**

**5:00pm**

*Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen, Mr. Gregory Leonardos (Chair) and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick*

*Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Public Health, Denise Boucher, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Department Secretary*

- I Following a warm, congratulatory opening, Greg Leonardos presided at the meeting as Chairman of the Board for the first time. The minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as read.
- II Christine Connolly announced "good news" for the BOH office as a result of the Prop 2½ override's successful vote. The override will enable the office to continue the additional work that has been given to the department over the past few years with the added advantage of hiring an additional person for a few hours per week. The BOH is very fortunate.
- III Kate Hill, 18 Hamilton Road, #106  
Ms. Connolly stated that the BOH was at the point of condemning this condo unit, but Ms. Hill finally realized the seriousness of condemning it and has made significant progress in restoring some order in the unit. We will, therefore, not be condemning the unit at this meeting as anticipated. The BOH staff has been inspecting her unit on a weekly basis and will continue to do so until she has disposed of enough debris to the point that the condo association can inspect the unit regularly. This has been an ongoing problem since 1997.
- IV **HEARING:** Continued from last meeting: David Wilfert, 60 Pleasant Street Unit 304  
Mr. Wilfert appeared at the meeting and stated his attorneys would not be attending the meeting. Denise Boucher reported receiving a call on May 18<sup>th</sup> from the tenant in #304 requesting another inspection for the purpose of documenting additional leaks in the kitchen. During the course of the inspection, it was noted by Denise that water was leaking into the kitchen down through the cabinets. Mr. Wilfert stated the tenant in #404 had hung a shower curtain and the water leakage had subsided considerably. When asked what had been done to repair damage caused by the leaking problem, he replied "nothing yet". Christine then asked Denise to re-inspect the unit and informed Mr. Wilfert if the leaking persists and a plan is not presented for repairs, the BOH will go to court.

- V      Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Arlington High School 2005  
Each board member received a copy of this survey together with a letter from Cindy Bouvier, chairperson of the School Health Advisory Committee, outlining the results of the report. The increases in suicide, sexual activity, alcohol use, gambling, sexual assault, and internet use are startling and clearly reinforces the need for increased health education to reach out to this age group. One of the most controversial problems facing the committee is the distribution of condoms. Despite the threat of AIDS, pregnancy, and disease, many parents are vehemently against the distribution of condoms by the school department. Condoms could be made available to students through (a) local pharmacies, (b) vending machines in schools and (c) school nurse office. It is a tough issue, but one that must be faced to protect this age group. This will be a topic that will be discussed many, many more times in future, and perhaps it would be possible to have the high school student group, which also includes parents, attend a meeting with the Board for further discussion. Patsy Kraemer's Human Service Board is interested in BOH's opinion of this survey.
- VI     Boston University School of Public Health Summer Interns  
Two graduate students will be working for the office for the summer, which is very helpful for BOH. Teresa Wood will be working as another staff person, answering phones, helping with day-to-day tasks and working on special projects. She is particularly interested in Lyme disease prevention and skin cancer awareness along with emergency preparedness. She is in a great program through the state that is paying the interns as well as offering the department a stipend to host her. Thomas Ahearn is a full-time student as well as a full-time worker, and will be writing articles for the department on weekends and nights on topics given him by the BOH. Presently, he is working for a pharmaceutical company that is paying his schooling, but he wishes to work in public health.
- VII    UPDATE: Risk Communication Training  
Ms. Connolly invited all Board members to attend this training, if available, on June 23, from 9 am to 3 pm. It is being held in response to the Hepatitis A situation last year when it became obvious that our risk communication town-wide was lacking. Federal funds are being used for this emergency preparedness training. This training will help the town with communications from the Public Works Dept to the Recreation Dept to the Council on Aging, to the BOH, Fire, Police, etc. We anticipate a good turnout and hopefully we will all learn a lot from the training.
- VII    UPDATE: One-year anniversary from hepatitis A clinics  
It has been one year since the BOH held its Hepatitis A clinics. All Board members are invited to a small breakfast event thanking the volunteers. This will be held here in the conference room this coming Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a slide show of the clinics, awards will be given to some of the volunteers, coffee and a few goodies will be served and a lot of reminiscing about the whole "Hepatitis A episode" will be done. A great deal has been learned since then on how to get the word out in a crisis.

#### Adjournment

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.